

ELY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



REPORT

For the Year 1897,

BY

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Cambridge :

PRINTED BY F. PIGGOTT, CAXTON WORKS, SIDNEY STREET.

1898.

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REPORT.

I BEG leave to communicate for the information of the Rural District Council my sanitary report for the year 1897.

The total number of deaths which have been registered is 202, but Death-rate. this number must be corrected by the addition of deaths of persons belonging to the district which have occurred outside its boundary, viz.: in the Workhouse (situate within the urban district of the City of Ely) 13; in the County Asylum, at Fulbourn, 4; in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, 1; making a corrected total of 220, which on the census return of 1891 gives an annual death-rate of 16·4 per thousand living. The death-rate in England and Wales for the same period is given as 17·4.

The total number of births registered is 362, equal to a birth-rate Birth-rate. of 28·2 per thousand living per annum. The birth-rate for England and Wales for the same period is given at 29·7.

The ratio of deaths under one year of age to 1000 registered births is 113.

The deaths registered as due to zymotic disease are:—from Typhoid Zymotic death-rate. Fever, 2; Diarrhoea, 2; and Whooping Cough, 6; total, 10; equal to an annual death-rate from these diseases of 0·78 per thousand living.

The deaths which properly belong to each district are after distribution as follows:—

Sub-District.		Share of Workhouse.	Asylum.	Addenbrooke's Hospital.	Registered Deaths.	Total.
Haddenham	...	7	1	1	55	64
Sutton	...	1	1	...	55	57
Littleport	...	3	...	...	64	67
Downham	...	2	2	...	28	32
Entire District	...	13	4	1	202	220

The death-rate and birth-rate of Haddenham are respectively 18·5 and 28·4; those of the other divisions are respectively Sutton 17·5 and 25·2; Littleport 15·8 and 28·5; Downham 17·6 and 32·5.

It will be observed from the above that the death-toll for the year is in all respects slightly above that of the year 1896, and that the increase has taken place in all parts of the district, except at the sub-district of Littleport, where there has been indeed a slight decrease.

*DISEASE INCIDENCE AND MEASURES TAKEN TO
ARREST ITS SPREAD.*

Scarlatina. In regard to the incidence of infectious disease, there would have been very little to record but for a prolonged epidemic of Scarlet Fever in the parish of Littleport, and the persistence of Typhoid Fever in the same parish.

Scarlet Fever, as mentioned in my report for the year 1896, was introduced into Littleport from Southery, in Norfolk, during December of that year, and has with short periods of "intermission" prevailed throughout the year. From the beginning of the year to the end of March the disease was confined to the village proper, seven cases in four households having been notified; on March 30, two cases appeared in a family in White House Drove (distant 4 miles), related to a family of the same name and earliest assailed in the village proper. There was evidence less or more precise of direct exportation to this outlying part of the parish. After this period, notwithstanding exclusion from school and public and private admonition, cases continued to occur to the number of eighteen in ten households in both the village proper and the outlying parts up to July 17, when there was a distinct break in the continuity of the cases till Sept. 9, and it was hoped that the efforts made had been successful, but thence onwards to the end of the year forty-five cases in twenty-one households were notified. It was not till near the end of the year when my surmise as to the cause of the persistence of the infective influence lay in the presence of many mild and unobserved or concealed cases of which the Sanitary Authority had no cognisance, received confirmation; and during the present month of January, 1898, a very flagrant case, which I hope may be the subject of judicial treatment, has come to light.

One case was notified at Downham; the real nature of the disease was obscure and no source of infection could be traced.

One case notified at Sutton was imported from the County of Suffolk.

Not a single case ended fatally, a fact which may in a measure account for the indifference with which the disease has been regarded by many of the householders.

Diphtheria. One case of Diphtheria has been notified at Sutton in one of the "lanes," where this disease appears from time to time.

Typhoid Fever. Twenty cases of Typhoid Fever have been notified, sixteen at Littleport, three in Downham parish and one at Thetford.

Two of the cases at Littleport were found to really reside just within the borders of the Urban District of the City of Ely, and due notice of the circumstances was communicated to the Medical Officer of Health for that district. The remaining fourteen cases occurred in eleven households, eight of the number in or near the village proper, the remainder in more distant parts of the parish. All the cases were essentially due to water borne infection, except in two secondary cases in households, one an infant 14 months old, whose mother had been attending the previous case and probably infected her infant by want of due attention to cleanliness. The water in five instances was obtained direct from the river. Several families in Silt Road and Pont's Hill obtain water from a pipe conduit which brings it through a filtering area from the Holme's Lode, an arm of the river. Two cases only proved fatal, one in Red Cow Drove and one next the river at Sandhill.

Whooping Cough was present and caused deaths in the following ^{Whooping}parishes :—Downham, 1 ; Coveney, 4 ; and Thetford, 1. ^{Cough.}

Influenza has been present and caused deaths, one at Wilburton, ^{Influenza.} one at Downham, and one at Littleport.

WATER SUPPLY.

At Littleport, a nuisance was caused, at the intake of the water ^{Water Supply.} supply, by a large collection of weeds. Notice was served on the Great Eastern Railway Co. to remove same, and this was complied with.

With regard to the Holme's Lode, following on my report of the year previous, the works required have been done and a temporary supply as suggested was supplied by water cart.

Also following on my report of the previous year, the question of water supply to this important village has been under serious consideration, and I have now the instructions of the District Council to advise them on the best means of improving the water supply.

At Haddenham, in consequence of a case of Typhoid Fever at the end of the year 1896, at Nelson Lane, a sample of the water supply was taken for analysis ; and having been reported as polluted with sewage and unfit for drinking purposes, the well, at the instance of the Authority, was closed, and a new well made at a distance from the cottages and a more satisfactory supply thus provided.

At the adjoining hamlet of Aldreth, the public water taps have been repaired.

At Coveney, the pond reservoir which supplies this village has been deepened two feet, the filter recharged with "polarite," and the pump repaired.

At Wardy Hill, Downham, the filter has also been cleared out and re-charged with "polarite."

At Stretham, the water supply (although good) is not easily accessible to some of the inhabitants.

At Witchford, no action has yet been taken for the improvement of the water supply.

At Sutton, no action has followed on my report of the year 1895, as to the needs of a water supply for the centre of this village.

Seven certificates have been applied for under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, Sec. 6, and granted by the Authority.

Parish pumps have been repaired at the following villages:—Coveney, 2; Downham, 2; Haddenham, 4; Littleport, 7; Mepal, 1; Stretham, 1; and Witcham, 1.

Parish ponds have been cleaned out at the following villages:—Coveney, 1; Haddenham, 6; Mepal, 1; and Stretham, 2.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage.

At Sutton, the first section of the sewerage works ordered by the Council has been carried out during the year, but I have to repeat the expression of hope that it may be regarded only as an instalment of a future more comprehensive scheme. A complaint was made to the District Council by the Parish Council of a nuisance at Brook Road, caused by overflow of the parish ditch, thereby flooding the houses in the neighbourhood. In company with the Inspector of Nuisances I visited the place and reported to the District Council suggesting a remedy, which has been carried into effect during the present year.

At Littleport, several street drains which were found to be blocked have been repaired, the street gulleys cleaned out and the sewers constantly flushed. All ditches at the end of sewers have been cleaned out. The Black Bank drain and also the sewer ditch have been thoroughly cleaned out.

At Downham, the ditch into which the parish drain discharges has been cleaned out, the street gulleys have been cleansed and a manhole at Pitt Lane repaired.

At Gothard's Lane, Aldreth, in order to abate a nuisance caused by a foul ditch which receives the village drain, a 6in. glazed earthenware pipe drain has been laid down emptying into a ditch on the other side of the road.

At Gravel Road, Stretham, several houses having been flooded during storms through imperfect drainage, a new 6in. glazed earthenware pipe drain with cement joints has been laid in and connected with the main sewer. The street gulleys, catchpit and filter have been cleaned out.

UNHEALTHY DWELLINGS.

Adverting to my report of the previous year with regard to the dilapidated house, at Red Cow or Bell's Drove, Littleport, with regard to which I had made a representation under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, the Council obtained from the Justices a closing order, but did not proceed for an order for demolition, as some slight repairs have been made. Unhealthy
Dwellings.

At Stretham, five cottages at Read Street, which were found to be dilapidated, have been on representation repaired by the owner.

At Haddenham, three cottages were found to be dilapidated, and have been voluntarily repaired by the owner.

At Sutton, three cottages which were found to be dilapidated, have been voluntarily repaired by the owner.

At Downham (100ft. Bank), four cottages which were found to be dilapidated, have been closed voluntarily by the owner.

SUNDRIES.

At Sutton, two cases of overcrowding have been reported ; one has been satisfactorily abated by removal of some members of the family, and the other by removal of the family to a larger house. Sundries.

At Mepal, one case was reported and satisfactorily abated by removal of some members of the family.

At Haddenham, one case was reported and satisfactorily abated by removal of some members of the family.

The Slaughterhouses and Bakehouses in the district have been regularly inspected, and several defects have been discovered, which on notice have been remedied.

Several workshops have been inspected during the year ; in one instance, viz. : at Littleport, on order of the Inspector of Nuisances, the premises were thoroughly cleansed and limewashed.

Appended hereto are the usual tabular statements of population, births, deaths and sickness, and the Inspector of Nuisances' table on the sanitary work of the year.

BUSHELL ANNINGSO.

TABLE A.

Table of Deaths during the year 1897, in the Rural Sanitary District of Ely; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

REGISTRATION SUB-DISTRICTS.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																						
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	(i)	FEVERS.					English Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phtthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	Other Diseases.	Cancer.	21a	21b	21c	22
									Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.																	
Haddenham...	55	9	8	2	1	14	21	{ Under 5 5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	.. 2	.. 1	..	..	17
Sutton ...	55	9	4	3	6	16	17	{ Under 5 5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	.. 2	..	..	..	38
Littleport ...	64	13	2	8	4	18	19	{ Under 5 5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	.. 2	.. 1	..	..	..	42
Downham ...	28	10	1	1	..	8	8	{ Under 5 5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	.. 5	.. 1	..	..	..	15
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	{ Under 5 5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	.. 7	.. 1	..	..	..	11
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	{ Under 5 5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	17

TOTALS ...	202	41	15	14	11	56	65	{ Under 5 5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	34	.. 10	.. 3	..	..	..	56

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring outside district among persons belonging thereto.																																	
Union Workhouse.	13	..	..	..	..	1	12	{ Under 5 5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	.. 6	.. 3	..	..	..	13
Addenbrooke's Hospl.	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	{ Under 5 5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Fulbourn Asylum.	4	..	..	..	..	1	3	{ Under 5 5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

TABLE B.

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the Rural Sanitary District of Ely; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the pur- pose of these statistics: Public Institutions be- ing shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	(d)	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.										Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.															
	CENSUS 1891.	(b)			(c)	FEVERS.										FEVERS.														
						Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	English Cholera.	Erysipelas.	12	13	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	11	12	13
Haddenham	3447		98	{ Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sutton	3248		82	{ Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Littleport... ..	4239		121	{ Under 5 5 upwards	...	19	2	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Downham... ..	1873		61	{ Under 5 5 upwards	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	12807		362	{ Under 5 5 upwards	...	20	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

NOTE.—“Notification of Infectious Disease” has been compulsory in the District since 1st August, 1890. There is no Isolation Hospital for the use of the Sick.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1897.

1.	Accumulations of filth removed	...	...	...	90
2.	Houses in a bad state of repair reported and in most instances satisfactorily dealt with...	...	...	...	16
3.	Yards to dwellings in an offensive state cleaned	...	...	...	65
4.	Privy nuisances, foul, &c. remedied...	...	...	...	92
5.	Privies new, and removed, vault filled up and converted into earth closets	...	...	...	55
6.	Animals kept in an offensive state removed	...	...	...	60
7.	Overcrowding, cases of, abated	...	...	...	4
8.	Water supply deficient and impure, &c.	...	...	...	10
9.	Samples of water taken to County Analyst	...	...	...	1
10.	Wells closed	...	...	...	1
11.	Cases of infectious and contagious diseases visited and supplied with disinfectants	...	...	...	106
12.	Schools closed	...	...	...	3
13.	Houses disinfected by Inspector	...	...	...	86
14.	Drainage nuisances ; drains repaired and new supplied...	...	...	...	58
15.	Foul ditches cleaned out	...	...	...	36
16.	New gulleys to drains	...	...	...	28
17.	Street drains trapped	...	...	...	14
18.	Parish ponds cleaned out	...	...	...	10
19.	New parish pumps	...	...	...	0
20.	Parish pumps repaired	...	...	...	18
21.	New houses erected	...	...	...	7
22.	Certificates granted under sec. 6 of Public Health (Water) Act, 1878	...	...	...	7
23.	Lodging houses registered	...	...	...	1
	Bakehouses, slaughterhouses, visited	...	...	all throughout district	
	Holme's lode, water supply	...	...	cleared	
	Black Bank sewer drains	...	...	roded twice	
	New slaughter houses	...	...	...	1
	New drain laid (Stretham), 3 chains 6in.	...	...	...

W. GREEN,
Inspector of Nuisances.

